Board of Nursing Quorum Requirement Revision

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An act to revise the quorum requirements for the Board of Nursing to conduct business.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

Section 1. That § 36-9-18 be amended to read as follows:

A quorum of the board for the purpose of conducting business is a majority of the members appointed. In addition to at least one officer, the The majority shall include one registered nurse, one licensed practical nurse, and one public member at least one officer.

BILL TITLE: An Act to revise the quorum requirements for the Board of Nursing to conduct business.

What does this bill actually do?

This bill revises the quorum requirements for the Board of Nursing to conduct business. It removes the requirement that a majority of the Board members present must include at least one RN, one LPN and one public member. It retains the requirement that a majority of Board members must be present and that the majority must include at least one officer.

What is the composition of the Board?

The Board of Nursing is an eleven member board consisting of 6 RNs, 3 LPNs, and 2 Public Members.

Why is the change necessary?

The quorum requirement that a majority of board members must be present for the purpose of conducting business which must include at least one RN, one LPN, and one public member places an undue burden on the two public members. It also prevents the Board of Nursing from conducting business if a public member is not available. This becomes especially important if a public member resigns from the Board and a replacement is being sought. Public Board

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members are more difficult to recruit and retain than are RN and LPN members.

Why is it more difficult to recruit and retain public members?

Although we can't say for certain, we believe it has to do with the time commitment that it takes to serve on this Board.

How often does the Board of Nursing meet?

The Board meets regularly five times per year for scheduled meetings. Additionally, emergency meetings may arise for the purpose of conducting disciplinary proceedings.

Will this change the composition of the Board membership?

No. This will not change the positions that are required by law being 6 RNs, 3 LPNs, and 2 Public members. The only change will be to allow the Board to conduct business with a majority of the members present, including at least one officer.